

**History of Ethnology
Department of Anthropology
Lakehead University
ANTH-3238
Fall 2019**

Instructor: Frederico Oliveira, PhD
Email: foliveir@lakeheadu.ca
Dates of Appointments: September 3rd to November 28th, 2019
Classes Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30 pm to 4 pm (AT-5041/OA2020)
Office: OR-1041
Office Hours: Tue/Thu: 12-2pm (or by appointment)

Course Description and Objectives:

This course provides more in depth examination of the key authors, schools of thought and intellectual processes that have shaped the field of sociocultural anthropology over the past 150 years. The course is organized following a chronological and linear direction that roughly reflects the foundation and continuous transformation of the discipline. Since anthropological theory is such a vast topic to be covered in one semester, the course will privilege depth instead of breadth. The overall approach for each theoretical perspective will be based on their analytical capacity to understand cultural diversity and the human life in society; on the historical, academic and social context in which they were produced; and as contributions to ongoing dialogues and debates. The objective is to learn some of the foundational (un)resolved debates in the discipline as well as to comprehend theory as a conceptual instrument, capable to make anthropology distinctive and effective to society. Because this course is guided by close reading of texts, students are expected to come to class well prepared with the assigned readings completed and with questions and insights about the authors' main ideas.

Course Readings:

Paul A. Erickson & Liam Murphy

2013 Readings for A History of Anthropological Theory. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

In addition there are a number of articles and book chapters that are required reading and are listed below for each week. All are available electronically at the course website.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Graded assignments include the following:

Class Participation
10% of course grade

Critical Review
20% of course grade

Debate Facilitation
10% of course grade

Mid-Term Exams
30% of course grade

Final Paper
30% of course grade

Class Participation: Attendance is mandatory. Reading (sometimes a lot) and attendance are critical to achieve a satisfactory grade and learning objectives in this course. Students are required to critically read all assigned materials prior to class and participate actively (in your own way) in class discussions and assignments. Students are allowed three absences without penalty (due to illness, emergency, travel, etc.). Subsequent unjustified absences will result in the loss of 5 points for each absence. Active and informed participation in discussion will usually raise your grade.

Critical Review: Critical Reviews assigned for each week must be completed by the start of the first class of that week (typed 1-2 pages, 1.5 space between the lines). For example, classes are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:30pm; critical Reviews are due by Tuesday at 11am to be sent to the instructor's email (foliveir@lakeheadu.ca). Students are required to deliver eight reviews during the semester and allowed to miss one delivery. Critical reviews are not summaries of the readings. To write your reviews you will be asked to elaborate three points where you agree and three points where you disagree with one of the authors' propositions. In total, for each review, you are expected to write six points with an approximate length of 10 lines for each point. To achieve a satisfactory grade, you are expected to present and discuss relevant points of the readings, bring examples, make associations with daily life situations, etc. These are some directions that can help you improve the quality of your critical reviews: 1) make an effort to understand which of the problems the author is aiming to address. Try to see the big picture; 2) When you do not agree with the author, on what basis do you explain your disagreement? When you agree, explain as well. 3) Criticize properly; do not pass judgment based on personal opinion, taste, or preference; 4) Is the argument internally consistent? Does the evidence (both that offered by the author and the evidence in the field) validate the argument?

Debate Facilitation: During the second class of each week (Thursday) 3 or 4 students will be responsible to facilitate a brief debate. These students will be pre-selected in the previous week and asked to present three points of their choice of the Critical Review they have delivered on Tuesday. Each student is required to participate at least 2 times in the debate facilitations during

the semester. More details will be provided for this assignment.

Mid-Term Exams: During the week 8 (Oct-22 and 24), there will be two in-class exams that will test your knowledge of the ideas and terms discussed in class and the readings. The first exam will have the quiz format of true/false and multiple choice questions directed to verify your objective understanding of the main concepts. The second exam will have an open-ended format that will provide opportunities to develop more complex and elaborated ideas.

Final Project: For this assignment, students will be asked to work individually or with a partner. Students are required to write a 10-12 page paper, providing a critical and reflexive assessment on how theory is important to better understand human behaviour and to make informed transformations in social life. Students will prepare an oral presentation to be given on the final week of class. Students will also organize a written paper to be delivered in the following week. The Final Paper follows the format of a research paper. This assignment allows students to develop an in depth reflection of a course topic that interests them. Required length: approximately 5,000 words or 10-12 pages, excluding bibliography. More details will be provided in class for this assignment.

Policies and Procedures:

Grading Policy:

Assignments will be evaluated primarily on the basis of a student's understanding of the material presented in the course. Other factors that figure in evaluation of assignments include creative and critical insight, and writing (clarity, coherence, and organization).

General Course Policies:

1. Avoid disrupting class by arriving late, leaving early, and/or allowing your cell phone to sound in class. Repeated disruptions will result first in a warning and then in a 5% penalty to the student's final grade. If the student's behaviour is disturbing the learning environment of the class he/she will be asked to leave. If you have to leave early inform the instructor in the beginning of the class.
2. It is expected that students will be respectful of their fellow students, their instructor, and cultures and traditions which are not their own.
3. Plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., that belong to someone else. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. This is serious issue. Violation of the university's policy will result in a grade penalty or failure of the course. This type of violation will stay in your academic record.
4. Assignments must be delivered on time. Penalties will be applied for late or not delivered assignments.
5. The final date to drop the course is November 8th, 2019.

6. Students are responsible for taking their own lecture notes. Course outline, journal articles and book chapters will be posted online on Desire2Learn at least one week prior to the due date. All the course readings will be provided as scanned PDF documents, posted on Desire2Learn.

7. The main communication tool between the instructor and students is Lakehead University's e-mail account. Students are asked to check regularly (including before the class) their LakeheadU e-mail account and Desire2Learn for unforeseen changes to the class due to weather conditions or other reasons. As a general rule, student questions sent 24 hours prior to an assignment or test will not be replied. Students can reasonably expect a response in 1-2 days. Grades are supposed to be returned to the students at the maximum period of two weeks after the assignment is delivered.

8. Students are welcome to schedule personal appointments to discuss any topic related to their academic progress or course content.

9. This syllabus is subject to minor changes during the course of the semester.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to the Course / Film Exhibition

(Sept-3)

(Sept-5)

Week 2: The Anthropologist as a Myth Teller / Early Anthropology

(Sept-10)

Richardson, Milles. (2010). "How it works in the Global world: Anthropologist the myth teller". In: *Paradigms for Anthropology*. (Paul Durrenberger & Suzam Erem, orgs.), pp. 21-41.

(Sept-12)

Tylor, Edward Burnett. "The Science of Culture [1873]" in History of Anthropological Theory (Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, orgs. pp. 28-39).

Morgan, Louis Henry. "Ethnical Periods [1877]" in History of Anthropological Theory (Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, orgs. pp. 40-48).

Week 3: Sociological Foundations of Anthropology I

(Sept-17)

Moore, Jerry. (2009). Émile Durkheim: "The Organic Society" (Chapter 4). In: *Visions of Culture*. Lanham: Altamira Press.

(Sept-19)

Marcel Mauss: "The Gift" (Introductory and Chapter 1)

Week 4: **Sociological Foundations of Anthropology II**

(Sept-24) Marx, Karl & Engels, Friedrich. "Preface" and "Part I, Feuerbach. Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlook: A. Idealism and Materialism" in A Critique of the German Ideology [1845] (pp. 1-11).

Marx, Karl & Engels, Friedrich. "Preface" and "Bourgeois and Proletarians" in Manifesto of the Communist Party [1847] (pp. 3-12).

(Sept-26) Harris, Marvin. 2010. "Sacred Cows in India: the myth of the sacred cow" in Paradigms for Anthropology (Paul Durrenberger & Suzan Erem, orgs.), pp. 76-80

Week 5: **Cultural Relativism**

(Oct-1) Moore, Jerry. (2009). Franz Boas: Culture in Context (Chapter 3, Moore) In: *Visions of Culture*. Lanham: Altamira Press.

Franz Boas: [1896]. "Limitations of the Comparative Method" (from Science Magazine).

(Oct-3) Benedict, Ruth. "The Individual and the Pattern of Culture [1934]" in History of Anthropological Theory (Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, orgs. pp. 134-145).

Mead, Margaret. "Introduction, Coming of Age in Samoa [1928]" in History of Anthropological Theory (Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, orgs. pp. 128-133).

Week 6: **Structural Functionalism**

(Oct-8) Radcliffe-Brown, A.R. "Social Structure [1958]" in History of Anthropological Theory (Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, orgs. pp. 177-182).

Malinowski, Bronislaw. "The Subject, Method and Scope of this Inquiry, Argonauts of the Western Pacific [1922]" in History of Anthropological Theory (Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, orgs. pp. 183-196).

(Oct-10) Gluckman, Max. "Rituals of Rebellion in South-East Africa [1963]" in History of Anthropological Theory (Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, orgs. pp. 197-214).

Week 7: **Reading Week**

(No Class: Thanksgiving & Study Week, Oct 14-18)

Week 8: **Midterms**

(Oct-22) First Midterm

(Oct-24) Second Midterm

Week 9: **Structural Anthropology**

(Oct-29) Levi-Strauss, Claude. "Chapter 1: Nature and Culture" in Elementary Structures of Kinship, pp. 3-12.

Levi-Strauss, Claude. "Structural Analysis in Linguistics and in Anthropology" in Structural Anthropology, pp. 31-54.

(Oct-31) Levi-Strauss, Claude. "The Structural Study of Myth" in Structural Anthropology, pp. 206-231.

Week 10: **Symbolic Anthropology**

(Nov-5) Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretative Theory of Culture" in The Interpretation of Cultures , pp. 3-32.

(Nov-7) Turner, Victor. "Symbols in Ndembu Ritual" [1967] in History of Anthropological Theory (Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, orgs. pp. 273-289).

Week 11: **The Crisis of Representation in Anthropology**

(Nov-12) Marcus, George & Fischer, Michael. "A Crisis of Representation in the Human Sciences" [1986] in History of Anthropological Theory (Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, orgs. pp. 443-450).

Said, Edward. "Knowing the Oriental" [1979] in History of Anthropological Theory (Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, orgs. pp. 324-336).

(Nov-14) Clifford, James. "Partial Truths"[1986] in History of Anthropological Theory (Paul Erickson & Liam Murphy, orgs. pp. 423-442).

Week 12: Contemporary Theory and Globalization

(Nov-19) Gupta, Akhil & Sharma, Aradhana. 2006. "Globalization and Postcolonial States" in Current Anthropology, 47(2), pp. 277-293.

(Nov-21) Edwards, David. 2010. "Counterinsurgency as Cultural System" in Small Wars Journal, pp. 1-18.

Week 13: ** Final Project Presentations **

(Nov-26)

(Nov-28)

Desire2Learn

The course uses Desire2Learn for its course website. To access the course website, or any other Desire2Learn-based course website, go to the LU portal login page at <https://lakeheadu.desire2learn.com/> and log in using your LU username and password. Once you have logged in to the portal, look for the **mycourselink** module, where you'll find the link to our course website along with the link to all other Desrise2Learn-based courses you are registered.

Accessibility Needs

Lakehead University is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.